

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     A communication protocol comprising the steps of:
- a) a sending application resident on a first computer system selecting a transport mechanism and passing data to a first utility program resident on said first computer system;
- b) said first utility program, adding a token, a data type category identifier, and a data type identifier to said data to form an information packet and then, transparently to said sending application, using said transport mechanism to transmit said information packet to a second computer system;
- 10           c) a second utility program, resident on said second computer system, locating said data type identifier in said information packet using said token;
- d) said second utility program indexing a relevant category of an application registry with said data type identifier to determine a destination application that is associated with said data type identifier, wherein said application registry comprises identifiers categorized into a plurality of different data type categories and wherein said data type category identifier of said
- 15           information packet identifies said relevant category; and
- e) supplying said data packet to said destination application.
2.     A communication protocol as described in Claim 1 wherein said first computer system and said second computer system are portable computer
- 25           systems.

3. A communication protocol as described in Claim 1 wherein said first computer system and said second computer system are hand-held portable computer systems.

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4. A communication protocol as described in Claim 1 wherein said transport mechanism is substantially compliant with the Short Message Service (SMS) standard.

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5. A communication protocol as described in Claim 1 wherein said transport mechanism includes the use of a GSM wireless communication device.

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6. A communication protocol as described in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of data type categories comprise: an Extension category; a MIME type category and an Application Creator category.

7. A communication protocol as described in Claim 6 wherein said data type category identifier is a numeric value.

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8. A transport-independent communication protocol between computer systems comprising the steps of:

a) a sending application resident on a first computer system selecting a wireless transport mechanism and passing data to a first utility program resident

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on said first computer system;

b) said first utility program, adding a token, a data type category identifier, and a data type identifier to said data to form an information packet and then, transparently to said sending application, using said wireless transport mechanism to transmit said information packet to a second computer system;

5 c) a second utility program, resident on said second portable computer system, locating said data type identifier in said information packet using said token;

d) said second utility program indexing a relevant category of said application registry with said data type identifier to determine a destination application that is associated with said data type identifier, wherein said application registry comprises identifiers of a plurality of different data type categories comprising: an Extension category; a MIME type category and an Application Creator category, and wherein said data type category identifier of said information packet identifies said relevant category; and

15 e) supplying said data packet to said destination application.

9. A communication protocol as described in Claim 8 wherein said first portable computer system and said second portable computer system are hand-held portable computer systems.

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10. A communication protocol as described in Claim 8 wherein said wireless transport mechanism is substantially compliant with the Short Message Service (SMS) standard.

11. A communication protocol as described in Claim 10 wherein said wireless transport mechanism includes the use of a GSM wireless communication device.

5 12. A communication protocol as described in Claim 6 wherein said data type category identifier is a numeric value.

13. A communication system comprising:

10 a sending application resident on a first computer system for selecting a transport mechanism and passing data to a first utility program resident on said first computer system;

said first utility program for adding a token, a data type category identifier, and a data type identifier to said data to form an information packet and then for using said transport mechanism to transmit said information packet to a second computer system;

15 an application registry resident on said second computer system and comprising identifiers of a plurality of different data type categories; and

a second utility program, resident on said second computer system, for locating said data type identifier using said token and for indexing a relevant category of said application registry with said data type identifier to determine a destination application that is associated with said data type identifier, wherein said data type category identifier of said information packet identifies said relevant category.

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14. A communication system as described in Claim 13 wherein said first computer system and said second computer system are portable computer systems.

5 15. A communication system as described in Claim 13 wherein said first computer system and said second computer system are hand-held portable computer systems.

10 16. A communication system as described in Claim 13 wherein said transport mechanism is substantially compliant with the Short Message Service (SMS) standard.

15 17. A communication system as described in Claim 13 wherein said transport mechanism includes the use of a GSM wireless communication device.

18. A communication system as described in Claim 17 wherein said transport mechanism includes the use of a GSM wireless communication device.

20 19. A communication system as described in Claim 13 wherein said plurality of data type categories comprise: an Extension category; a MIME type category and an Application Creator category.

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